

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Telephone Number Portability)	CC Docket No. 95-116
)	
)	
CTIA Petition for Declaratory Ruling on)	
Wireline-Wireless Porting Issues)	
_____)	

**UNITED STATES TELECOM ASSOCIATION
MOTION IN SUPPORT OF
BELLSOUTH'S MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

The United States Telecom Association (USTA),¹ through the undersigned, files this motion in support of the request made by the BellSouth Corporation, on behalf of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth), for the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) to grant an extension of time until January 30, 2004, to file comments, and February 20, 2004, to file reply comments, in the above-captioned proceeding.²

USTA supports BellSouth's motion and agrees that the impacts associated with the Commission's proposals in the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) are significant to the wireline and wireless telecommunications industry and that an extension of time is warranted given the complexity of the issues presented. In addition, USTA has heard from other USTA members that an extension of time, consistent with that requested by BellSouth, would provide them with the additional time needed to adequately review the Commission's proposals and respond with substantive and meaningful comments and replies. USTA also agrees with BellSouth that an extension may allow for the opportunity of wireline and wireless carriers to

¹ USTA is the Nation's oldest trade organization for the local exchange carrier industry. USTA's carrier members provide a full array of voice, data and video services over wireline and wireless networks.

comment on the work performed by the North American Numbering Council at its meeting on January 13, 2004, as directed by the Commission in the FNPRM. Finally, USTA agrees with BellSouth that an extension is warranted because the current pleading cycle falls during the holiday season when key personnel, whose expertise is critical in assessing the Commission's proposals, will be unavailable.

USTA urges the Commission to extend the due date for comments and reply comments, to January 30, 2004, and February 20, 2004, respectively, in the above-captioned proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES TELECOM ASSOCIATION



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December 16, 2003

² See Telephone Number Portability, 68 Fed. Reg. 68,831 (Dec. 10, 2003) (stating that the Commission's current filing dates for comments and reply comments in the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking are December 30, 2003 and January 9, 2004, respectively).